

REMARKS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,599,142 to Bu. In particular, the Examiner finds that, with regard to claim 1, Bu discloses (emphasis added) "a carriage part 40 movable along the length of the female connector". The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Bu discloses a body portion 40 of an ejector mechanism 4 (column 2, lines 62-63), wherein the body portion 40 comprises a pair of pivots 400 (column 3, lines 3-4), and wherein "*the pivots 400 of the ejector mechanism 4 are received in the holes 212 of a corresponding guiding projection 21 to pivotally attach the ejector mechanism 4 to the housing 2*" (column 3, lines 20-23). Part 40 of Bu is pivotally attached to the housing of the female connector through pivots received in holes, and is not movable along the length of the connector. Nowhere in Bu is it suggested to make part 40 "movable along the length of the female connector" as recited in claims 1 or 10. In view of the above, the Applicant submits that claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Bu. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to clearly and specifically point out where Bu discloses the above feature in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)(2).

Claims 2-9 stand rejected in view of Bu. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. The Applicant submits that at least in view of their dependency, claims 2-9 are patentable over Bu.

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In view of the above, the Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urges the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 4, 2005

(Date of Transmission)

Corinda Humphrey

(Name of Person Transmitting)



(Signature)

January 4, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Popa

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 43,010

LADAS & PARRY

5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100

Los Angeles, California 90036

(323) 934-2300 voice

(323) 934-0202 facsimile

rpopa@ladasparry.com

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